

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (currently amended) A medical pacifier for delivering gas to a patient, the pacifier comprising:
a nipple member adapted to be received within an oral cavity of the patient, the nipple member having a conduit extending therethrough and an outlet opening provided therein; and
a base attached to the nipple member and adapted to remain outside the oral cavity, the base including an inlet opening provided therein and a lumen extending therethrough which is in fluid communication with the conduit of the nipple member, wherein the inlet opening is sized has an outer diameter of approximately 15 mm for connection to receiving a standard breathing tube via an interference fit on an outer surface of the inlet opening, the breathing tube remaining external to the body patient such that gas can flow through the base and the nipple member for delivery via the outlet opening into the oral cavity of the patient.
2. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the base includes a base plate disposed generally perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the nipple member, the base plate having a concave front surface facing the nipple member and a convex rear surface facing away from the nipple member.
3. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 2, wherein the base further includes a connector projecting from the rear surface of the base plate, wherein the lumen extends through the connector and the inlet opening is disposed in a proximal end of the connector.
4. (canceled)

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5. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 3, wherein the connector is generally L-shaped.

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6. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the outlet opening is provided in a distal end of the nipple member.

7. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 2, further including a handle ring pivotally attached to the rear surface of the base plate.

8. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein pacifier includes a longitudinal slit formed therein for receiving an endoscope.

9. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the nipple member is impregnated with medication.

10. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the pacifier is molded from a plastic material.

11. (original) The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the pacifier is of one-piece construction.

12. (currently amended) A medical pacifier for delivering anesthetic gas to a patient, the medical pacifier comprising:

a base adapted to remain outside an oral cavity of the patient, the base having a generally concave front surface and a generally convex rear surface;

a connector projecting from the base rear surface, the connector including an inlet opening provided in a proximal end thereof and a lumen extending therethrough, the connector proximal end having an outer diameter of approximately 15 mm for compatibly attaching to receiving a standard breathing tube over the connector proximal end, the breathing tube remaining external to the body patient for providing a source of anesthetic gas; and

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a nipple member projecting from the base front surface and adapted to be received within an oral cavity of the patient, the nipple member having a conduit extending therethrough which is in fluid communication with the lumen and an outlet opening provided in a distal end thereof such that anesthetic gas can flow through the pacifier for delivery via the outlet opening into the oral cavity of the patient.

13. (currently amended) An apparatus for inducing anesthesia in patient, the apparatus comprising:

a breathing circuit including a source of anesthetic gas and an inlet tube connected to the source and operable to transport the gas toward the patient, the inlet tube remaining external to the body patient; and

a medical pacifier connected to the breathing circuit, the pacifier including

a nipple member adapted to be received within an oral cavity of the patient, the nipple member having a conduit extending therethrough and an outlet opening provided therein, and

a base attached to the nipple member and adapted to remain outside the oral cavity, the base including an inlet opening provided therein and a lumen extending therethrough which is in fluid communication with the conduit of the nipple member,

wherein the inlet opening is adapted to be connected to the inlet tube such that anesthetic gas can flow through the base and the nipple member for delivery via the outlet opening into the oral cavity of the patient.

14. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the base includes a base plate disposed generally perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the nipple member, the base plate having a concave front surface facing the nipple member and a convex rear surface facing away from the nipple member.

15. (original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the base includes a connector projecting from the rear surface of the base plate, wherein the lumen extends through the connector and the inlet opening is disposed in a proximal end of the connector.

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16. (original) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the proximal end of the connector has an outer diameter of approximately 15 mm.

17. (original) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the breathing circuit further includes an outlet tube connected to the source, and the inlet tube and the outlet tube are joined to form a single tube end which is adapted to be fitted over the proximal end of the connector.

18. (original) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the connector is generally L-shaped.

19. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the outlet opening is provided in a distal end of the nipple member.

20. (original) The apparatus according to claim 14, further including a handle ring pivotally attached to the rear surface of the base plate.

21. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein pacifier includes a longitudinal slit formed therein for receiving an endoscope.

22. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the nipple member is impregnated with medication.

23. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the pacifier is molded from a plastic material as a single piece.

24. (previously presented) A method for delivering gas to a patient, the method comprising:

inserting a medical pacifier into an oral cavity of the patient, the pacifier including a nipple member adapted to be received within the oral cavity and having a conduit

extending therethrough and an outlet opening provided therein, and a base attached to the nipple member and adapted to remain outside the oral cavity, the base including an inlet opening provided therein and a lumen extending therethrough which is in fluid communication with the conduit of the nipple member;

connecting a gas source to the inlet opening; and

supplying gas through the base and the nipple member for delivery via the outlet opening exclusively into the oral cavity of the patient.

25. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein supplying gas includes supplying anesthetic gas.

26. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein supplying gas includes delivering gas toward the pacifier under positive pressure.

27. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein connecting a gas source includes connecting an external tube to the inlet opening.

28. (original) The method according to claim 24, further including dispensing medication into the oral cavity of the patient via the nipple member.

29. (original) The method according to claim 24, further including dipping the nipple member into a dextrose solution prior to inserting the pacifier into the oral cavity of the patient.

30. (original) The method according to claim 24, further including inserting an endoscope through the pacifier and into the oral cavity of the patient.

31. (original) The method according to claim 24, further including placing a face mask on the patient.